



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program - Phase X Laws of Minnesota 2021 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 12/20/2022

Project Title: Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program - Phase X

Funds Recommended: \$4,581,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2021, First Sp. Session, Ch. 1, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 4(b)

Appropriation Language: \$4,581,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Ducks Unlimited to acquire land in fee for wildlife management under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8, and to restore and enhance prairie lands, wetlands, and land buffering shallow lakes. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jon Schneider

Title: Director - Minnesota Conservation Program

Organization: Ducks Unlimited

Address: 311 East Lake Geneva Road

City: Alexandria, MN 56308

Email: jschneider@ducks.org

Office Number: 3207629916

Mobile Number: 3208150327

Fax Number:

Website: www.ducks.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Sibley, Nicollet, Waseca, Lincoln, Yellow Medicine, Rice, Otter Tail, Murray, Meeker, Big Stone, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Swift, Lyon, Cottonwood, Clay, McLeod and Redwood.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie
- Forest / Prairie Transition

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

This Phase 10 request funds Ducks Unlimited's prairie wetland acquisition and restoration program. DU will acquire and restore 660 acres of prairie land containing wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region of SW Minnesota for transfer to the Minnesota DNR for inclusion in the state WMA system. This land acquisition and restoration program focuses on restoring cropland with drained wetlands along shallow lakes and adjoining WMAs to help restore prairie wetland habitat complexes for breeding ducks and other wildlife. DNR will help seed uplands, and DU engineers will survey, design, and hire private sector contractors to restore drained wetlands.

Design and Scope of Work

This is Phase 10 of Ducks Unlimited's ongoing program to both Acquire and Restore wetlands and prairie on land for sale adjacent to Minnesota DNRs State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). DU works with willing seller private landowners adjacent to WMAs that have drained wetlands and converted prairie uplands, and land on shallow lakes in need of protection. DU purchases and holds land title through its Wetlands America Trust (WAT), DU's supporting land-holding fiduciary organization, of which DU is the sole corporate member.

Our goal is to help restore functioning prairie-wetland habitat complexes and complement other conservation efforts to protect intact native prairie. Our work addresses the habitat goals in Minnesota's Long-range Duck Recovery Plan, Minnesota's Prairie Conservation Plan, and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. This work is time-sensitive because farmland adjacent to state WMAs is rarely offered for sale for conservation, and tracts are only available for a short time. DU works quickly, and has already spent most past OHF funds appropriated for land acquisition.

DU will work in cooperation with Minnesota DNR Section of Wildlife, and will coordinate with Pheasants Forever, other NGO partners, and local sportsmen clubs such as Swan Lake Area Wildlife Association and Cottonwood County Game and Fish League. Although approval is not requested from county boards for DU land acquisitions, DU communicates frequently with county and township officials to ensure local official awareness of our conservation work, and routinely attends county board meetings to discuss questions. The acquisitions and restorations proposed represents the amount of work DU can accomplish in three to five years, is scalable, and benefits game and non-game wildlife species alike - from mallards to monarch butterflies.

Because 90% of Minnesota's prairie wetlands have been drained and 99% of prairie uplands converted in Minnesota, acquisition and restoration of prairie and small wetlands is critical – especially for breeding waterfowl in the Prairie Pothole Region of SW Minnesota where DU focuses our efforts. Furthermore, most remaining undrained wetlands here are in poor ecological condition due to massive landscape prairie conversion to cropland and wetland drainage that degrades both wetland condition and habitat function for prairie wildlife.

Although many of our remaining prairie wetlands and shallow lakes are contained within state WMAs or federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA), these small public land patches rarely provide optimal wildlife habitat due to their fragmented shape and small size. Similarly, most prairie shallow lakes are surrounded by a thin ribbon of

uplands that fail to adequately buffer them from surrounding agricultural land runoff. Therefore, acquisition and restoration of drained wetlands and cultivated cropland in close proximity to our public lands will improve and buffer our public shallow lakes and remaining wetlands, and help create functioning prairie-wetland complexes of habitat for breeding ducks and other prairie wildlife.

DU professional engineers and biologists work closely with DNR field staff to plan and implement both robust prairie and wetland restorations, including diverse native forb/grass seed plantings and complex wetland restorations that often involve extensive tile drainage systems.

How does the plan address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species?

This proposal protects and restores prairie lands, which are identified as critical habitats for many “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” listed in Minnesota’s “Tomorrow’s Habitat for the Wild & Rare: An Action Plan for Minnesota Wildlife.” Specific species listed in the Action Plan as requiring prairie (page 255) include seven species of butterflies and three bird species that are native prairie specialists: chestnut-collared longspur, Sprague’s pipit, and Baird’s sparrow. The Prairie Parkland has 139 species listed on the SGCN with 13 of these species being unique to the section.

In addition to these specific wildlife species listed as SGCN examples in the Action Plan, restored prairie in the Prairie Parkland will also provide habitat of significant value for other species listed in Appendix B of the Action Plan. Restored and protected prairie will provide habitat of significant value for other SGCN including bird species: upland sandpiper, bobolink, burrowing owl, le conte’s sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, eastern meadowlark, swamp sparrow, sharp-tailed grouse, short-eared owl, northern harrier, dickcissel, Henslow’s sparrow, and Nelson’s sharp-tailed sparrow. Upland nesting waterfowl will also benefit including waterfowl listed as SGCN; northern pintail and lesser scaup, which have both seen declines in continental populations. Wetland associated birds such as trumpeter swan, black tern, American bittern, Wilson’s phalarope, and marbled godwit will benefit from wetlands either restored or buffered in the prairie landscape. Mammals such as northern grasshopper mouse and Richardson’s ground squirrels, reptiles such as lined snake and Blanding’s turtle, and amphibians such as northern cricket frog and common mudpuppy are listed as SGCN for the Prairie Parkland.

Describe how the plan uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

Ducks Unlimited uses science to strategically focus on lands adjacent to existing state WMAs with restorable wetlands that build prairie-wetland complexes for breeding ducks or buffer managed shallow lakes. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s “Thunderstorm Map” and “Restorable Wetlands Inventory” help determine importance to breeding waterfowl. We prioritize lands with restorable wetlands and prairie near WMAs with relatively high biological diversity and significance based on the Minnesota DNR County Biological Survey (MCBS) to improve the ecological functionality of existing public WMAs for ducks. Examples include:

Minneota WMA Tract 8 in Jackson County is 136 acres adjacent to both the existing WMA and a WPA totaling 400 contiguous acres of wetland-grassland habitat. This area is a MCBS Site of Moderate Biodiversity due to abundant native prairie. This parcel would also protect approximately 5 acres of native prairie and part of a 45-acre wetland

of Moderate Biological Significance. It supports over 41 breeding duck pairs per square mile and falls within a Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Strategic Habitat Complex. There are restorable uplands and numerous restorable wetlands on this property that will provide increased habitat for breeding waterfowl and other grassland birds.

Henry X WMA Tract 3 in Swift County is 40 acres nestled between Lake Hassel, a lake of High Biological Significance, and Henry X WMA, a site of Moderate Biological Significance. This complex supports over 31 breeding duck pairs per square mile and falls within a Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Corridor.

Thielke WMA Tract 4 in Big Stone County is 137 acres adjacent to the existing WMA. The complex supports over 31 breeding duck pairs per square mile and is near a complex of prairie potholes and priority shallow lakes identified by Minnesota DNR Wildlife. It is within a Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Corridor.

Winkler WMA Tract 5 in Jackson County is 41-acres adjacent to Winkler WMA. The property is a mixture of native prairie and wetland habitat. The WMA is a site of Moderate Biodiversity Significance and supports over 21 breeding ducks per square mile.

Which two sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are most applicable to this project?

- H4 Restore and protect shallow lakes
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which two other plans are addressed in this program?

- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Prairie

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

Does this program include leveraged funding?

Yes

Explain the leverage:

DU strives to use non-federal OHF expense to leverage federal NAWCA grant funds to further our conservation mission. However, NAWCA is highly competitive and complex, takes at least a year for funding approval, requires a firm match commitment, and proposal success is uncertain. Nonetheless, DU works closely with Minnesota DNR, and NGO partners to offer recent past state OHF acquisitions as non-federal match to leverage federal NAWCA

funds to help fund OHF land restoration and also acquire additional lands. For example, several recent past OHF acquisitions were recently pledged as match in NAWCA proposals likely to be funded the future that will help pay for restoration costs on those lands acquired. Similarly, DU partners with DNR and other NGOs to request federal NAWCA grant funds to restore lands acquired through this OHF appropriation too by using OHF expense as non-federal match. Federal NAWCA and other leverage expense will be reported in our final report to the LSOHC at the end of this grant.

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

This request does not supplant or substitute previous funding. This request is for new land acquisition funding to supplement traditional DU conservation activities and allow DU to expand our conservation program to buy/restore land, and will not supplant or substitute traditional private sources of funding for DU conservation programs.

Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
2009	DU private	\$26,500
2010	DU private	\$0
2013	DU private	\$56,600
2015	DU private and federal NAWCA	-
2016	DU private and federal NAWCA	-
2017	DU private and federal NAWCA	-
2018	DU private and federal NAWCA	-
2019	DU private and federal NAWCA	-
2020	DU private and federal NAWCA	-

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

All lands acquired will be transferred to the Minnesota DNR for inclusion in the state's Wildlife Management Area system. Thus, Minnesota DNR Wildlife land managers will sustain and maintain the prairie and wetlands acquired and restored by Ducks Unlimited in perpetuity, and manage them to provide optimal wildlife habitat and for public use.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2024	DNR G&F Fund, OHF	Mow restored prairie for weed control	Periodically burn native prairie every 5 years as needed	Assess and manage water levels in larger restored wetlands as vegetation and ecological conditions warrant action

Activity Details

Requirements

If funded, this program will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056?

Yes

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**

No

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:

DU strives to notify and discuss land acquisition plans prior to land acquisition closings. Discussions with local county and other government officials will be held in conjunction with acquiring lands once negotiations result in a purchase agreement. Initial notification will include initial phone contact to individual board members representing the location of the land to be acquired. Official written notification to township and county boards will be made at least 30 days before closing. Because land acquisition deals are very private and sensitive matters, disclosing details in advance of purchase agreements can jeopardize land deals with private landowners. Because requesting formal local approval involves elected officials voting on private land deals, which invites local politics and makes private landowner intentions public, DU does not seek local government approval of our land acquisitions. Instead, DU contacts and meets with county and township boards in person to inform and discuss pending plans to ensure local government awareness of the public benefits of our land acquisition and restoration work, and changes in future tax payments. DU pays taxes in full at the county assessed rate during our hold time, and because state PILT amounts have been higher than previous assessed county tax rates for land acquired by DU in the Prairie Section of SW Minnesota, county boards have been very pleased with DU land acquisitions for the Minnesota DNR.

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?

No

Describe the permanent protection and justification for additional protection:

Some tracts may contain a USFWS wetland easement protecting intact wetland basins, prohibiting wetland drainage, burning, and filling, but otherwise allowing farming when dry so the value of these areas will be accommodated and addressed in the appraisal.

Land Use**Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program?**

Yes

Explain what will be planted:

DU purchases land in Minnesota to protect and restore prairie, wetlands, and shallow lake shoreland for ducks and other prairie and wetland-dependent wildlife. Lands acquired will be transferred to the Minnesota DNR for inclusion in state Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) for long-term management and public use. Initial Development and Restoration Plans are developed in partnership with Minnesota DNR and area wildlife manager approval according to WMA management plan goals. The primary purposes of WMAs are to develop and manage habitat for the production of wildlife and for compatible outdoor recreation. To fulfill those goals, the DNR may use limited farming specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife.

Lands proposed to be acquired for prairie restoration as WMAs may utilize limited farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is the standard prairie restoration practice across the Midwest. On a small percentage of WMAs (less than 2.5%), DNR uses farming to provide a winter food source for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture-dominated landscapes largely devoid of winter food sources. DU will work closely with DNR through our cooperative acquisition and restoration planning process to avoid purchasing tracts where DNR requires placement of food plots and instead defers those to DNR to acquire directly, as restoration of prairie and wetlands for waterfowl is our strategic focus and

mission.

Most lands to be acquired and restored through this program will be farmland with cropped fields, which DU will restore to prairie and wetland habitat. Very limited short-duration row-cropping of soybeans or use of oats as a cover crop, or other farming activity may be required immediately after acquisition prior to restoration via native prairie grass and forb seeding to rid the soil of residual herbicides that limit native plant growth and excess nutrients that promote weeds. Increasingly, farmers are using herbicides with an 18-month carryover residual effect, that requires an additional year of farming with other compatible herbicides before native plants can be seeded. DU strives to minimize this circumstance by working with private landowners to guide their final year of cropping prior to selling, but arranging such is not always possible and use of cover crops or an additional year of "safe" row cropping in soybeans is sometimes required. DU will strive to use non-GMO treated seed whenever and wherever possible if planting of crops is required.

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?

No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?

Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:

No variations anticipated. All lands to be acquired are in rural areas and will be included in state Wildlife Management Areas, and open to public use as per Minnesota DNR rules.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

- State of MN

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

- WMA

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?

We plan to close 4-6 land tracts through this appropriation.

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?

No

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition?

No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?

Yes

Yes, DU strives to fully restore all lands acquired in F-T for the Minnesota DNR, including full wetland restorations too, which is our primary mission. This is why our Contracts budget is large, why our staff costs (for wetland restoration engineering) and why our \$ per acre ratio may be higher than other proposals.

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this program's funding and availability?

Yes

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Appraise and acquire lands in fee-title.	June 2024
Restore lands acquired and transfer to Minnesota DNR.	June 2029

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2029

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation

Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. For acquiring real property, the amounts in this section are available until June 30, 2025. Money for restoration or enhancement is available until June 30, 2026. Money for restoration and enhancement of land acquired with an appropriation in this article is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2029. If a project receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds, the time of the appropriation may be extended to equal the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan. Money appropriated for acquiring land in fee title may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.

Budget

Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan.

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$300,000	\$50,000	-	\$350,000
Contracts	\$75,000	\$150,000	DU private and federal NAWCA	\$225,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$3,970,000	-	-	\$3,970,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$30,000	\$10,000	DU private and federal NAWCA	\$40,000
Professional Services	\$90,000	-	-	\$90,000
Direct Support Services	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$40,000	-	-	\$40,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$11,000	-	-	\$11,000
Supplies/Materials	\$10,000	-	-	\$10,000
DNR IDP	\$30,000	-	-	\$30,000
Grand Total	\$4,581,000	\$210,000	-	\$4,791,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Biologists and Engineers to restore lands acquired	0.87	3.0	\$260,000	\$50,000	DU private and federal NAWCA	\$310,000
Program and Realty Managers to acquire land and administer grant	0.13	3.0	\$40,000	-	-	\$40,000

Amount of Request: \$4,581,000

Amount of Leverage: \$210,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 4.58%

DSS + Personnel: \$325,000

As a % of the total request: 7.09%

Easement Stewardship: -

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?

Budget and acres were reduced proportionately, with some minor adjustments based on updated land and restoration cost estimates and projections.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

DU will strive to use state OHF fee-title land acquisition expenses as old match to leverage federal NAWCA grant fund to help pay costs to restore wetlands on lands acquired. The leverage pledged is not confirmed, and is estimate of federal NAWCA funds we hope to secure in future years.

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?

Yes

Please explain the overlap of past and future staffing and position levels previously received and how that is coordinated over multiple years?

DU assigns site-specific, unique project numbers to each land acquisition or wetland restoration project, and biologist/engineering staff charge time and expenses to these specific project number codes so charges are tracked to specific sites by each individual.

Furthermore, charges are only billed to one OHF grant or another, therefore staff charges can be spread among multiple projects

funded by multiple grants. Despite DU staff working on multiple projects and grants throughout the year, DU staff cost invoicing is OHF

grant-specific. This allows the team of DU 10+ DU staff working in Minnesota to work on multiple projects throughout the state with

multiple OHF grants throughout the year. DU strives to minimize overlap among OHF grants for the same program, and we strive to spend acquisition funds from earlier grants first before more recent grants.

Restoration work overlaps by nature, however, due to the time it takes to acquire, design, and then restore land.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

Contracts are for restoration of prairie and wetlands, including tree removal, native seed installation, mowing, and heavy equipment to restore wetlands by removing sediment and tile drains, and installing water level control structures or berms in ditches.

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?

We anticipate acquiring 4-6 land tracts through this appropriation, depending on the size and cost of land tracts.

Travel

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental?

No

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging

None; most of the travel costs will be instate mileage, with some overnight lodging required during land restoration survey and construction management.

I understand and agree that lodging, meals, and mileage must comply with the current MMB Commissioner Plan:

Yes

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?

Minnesota DNR grants staff previously reviewed and approved DU accounting methodology for Direct Support Services, which are calculated as part of DU staff costs. DU Direct Support Services constitute approximately 8-10% of DU overall staff costs on average among DU conservation staff billing categories. DU separates and invoices for Direct Support Service expenses approved by DNR for reimbursement separately from Personnel expenses. In accordance with 2 CFR 200, DU uses the direct allocation method of allocating costs to programs and final cost objectives. This process of allocating costs is accomplished through the use of hourly rates. The direct cost of activities, including direct support expenses, is included in these hourly rates. The rates are comprised of costs for salaries, benefits, office space, general insurance, support staff, office supplies, and other various direct expenses incurred at the regional offices and conservation department at the home office. All costs are assigned to conservation projects (net of applicable personnel and other costs that are non-conservation related.) Hourly charges represent the amount that DU charges conservation projects per hour for each staff member working on the project. These costs represent expenses that directly support the labor cost necessary for the development of a specific water/wetlands conservation project.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?

Small hand tools required for land restoration and leased engineering GPS survey equipment rental charges to survey lands acquired for wetland restoration.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?

Yes

Are the funds confirmed?

No

What is the approximate date you anticipate receiving confirmation of the federal funds?

DU will use fee-title lands acquired via OHF grants as match to leverage federal NAWCA grant funds to help restore lands acquired by OHF, beginning in July 2022 via future competitive NAWCA grants subsequently successfully leveraged to help restore lands acquired via OHF grants.

Output Tables**Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	140	520	-	-	660
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	140	520	-	-	660

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$940,000	\$3,641,000	-	-	\$4,581,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$940,000	\$3,641,000	-	-	\$4,581,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	320	-	340	-	660
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	320	-	340	-	660

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	\$1,500,000	-	\$3,081,000	-	\$4,581,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	\$1,500,000	-	\$3,081,000	-	\$4,581,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$6,714	\$7,001	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	\$4,687	-	\$9,061	-

Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need ~ *This work will protect 320 acres of emergent wetlands and restore oak savanna around them to improve breeding and migration habitat for both waterfowl and non-game birds and species of greatest conservation need in the Alexandria Moraine of Otter Tail County.*

Programs in prairie region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *Land bordering shallow lakes and land containing drained wetlands will be acquired and restored back to functioning wetlands for waterfowl with native grass and forb wildflower grassland surrounding them as habitat for pollinators, migratory birds, and resident wildlife. Lands will transferred into the state Wildlife Management Area system to provide additional prairie habitat for migratory species and public use, both of which will be monitored by Minnesota DNR. Restored wetland basins will be monitored by DNR area wildlife field staff, and managed to optimize wetland habitat conditions. Prairie uplands will be managed to minimize trees and encourage native plants.*

Parcels

For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?

No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:

Ducks Unlimited prioritizes purchase of prairie farmland with restorable wetlands adjacent to existing public lands, and land adjacent to shallow lakes managed by DNR for inclusion in the Minnesota DNR's state Wildlife Management Area (WMA) system. DU focuses on acquiring and restoring converted/cultivated prairie with drained wetlands adjacent to existing WMAs to enlarge existing WMAs to create functioning prairie-wetland habitat complexes that benefit ducks and other prairie wildlife. This work also complements other conservation efforts to protect intact native prairie.

DU works in close partnership with the Minnesota DNR Section of Wildlife and coordinates with other national and state NGO partners including Pheasants Forever, The Conservation Fund, and The Nature Conservancy to periodically review parcels for sale that DNR desires for WMAs. DU selects priority prairie parcels in the southern region that are highly regionally ranked by DNR and that add a good mix of prairie and wetland restorations to existing WMAs.

DU strategically prioritizes tracts of land with restorable wetlands that DU wetland engineers can survey, design, and restore, especially those adjoining existing patches of prairie and wetland habitat that are not functioning as viable prairie-wetland complexes due to their small size and fragmented shape. DU also prioritizes land bordering shallow lakes managed by DNR in order to buffer those shallow, ecologically-sensitive wildlife lakes and help expand the prairie-wetland complex around them.

Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Skoog WMA - Tract 6	Big Stone	12447226	92	\$550,000	No
Goose Prairie WMA - Tract 10	Clay	14144222	61	\$300,000	No
Little Swan Lake WMA - Tract 14	Cottonwood	10635218	17	\$125,000	No
Winkler WMA - Tract 5	Jackson	10437206	41	\$60,000	No
Minneota WMA - Tract 8	Jackson	10136229	136	\$820,000	No
Whitefield WMA - Tract 12	Kandiyohi	11835215	40	\$250,000	No
Cabinrock WMA - Tract 7a	Kandiyohi	12136205	40	\$200,000	No
Hopeful WMA - Tract 9	Lincoln	10944210	220	\$1,100,000	No
Shaokatan WMA - Tract 19	Lincoln	11146203	239	\$1,164,800	No
Bohemian WMA - Tract 7	Lincoln	11346203	20	\$60,000	No
Poposki WMA - Tract 21	Lincoln	11444214	40	\$175,000	No
Coot WMA - Tract 17	Lincoln	11144230	60	\$285,000	No

Hopeful WMA - Tract 16	Lincoln	10943218	200	\$1,400,000	No
Greenhead WMA - Tract 2	Lyon	10940221	119	\$500,000	No
Meadow Creek WMA - Tract 20	Lyon	11140232	223	\$1,560,000	No
Kujas WMA - Tract 2	McLeod	11430235	156	\$340,000	No
Mahlon James WMA - Tract 4a	Meeker	11831230	54	\$100,000	No
Ruthton WMA - Tract 1A	Murray	10843207	180	\$1,200,000	No
Mason Basins WMA - Tract 2	Murray	10741225	160	\$1,200,000	No
Lowville WMA - Tract 5	Murray	10742212	63	\$160	Yes
Dovray WMA - Tracts 19/19a	Murray	10740213	165	\$1,000,000	No
Great Oasis WMA - Tract 17	Murray	10742210	334	\$1,900,000	No
Swan Lake WMA - Gleisner	Nicollet	11029202	209	\$2,400,000	No
Swan Lake WMA - Tracts 10/11	Nicollet	11029210	111	\$820,000	No
Daubs Lake WMA - Tract 2/2a	Redwood	11137211	160	\$1,300,000	No
Caron Lake WMA - Tract 4 C&M Brown Partnership	Rice	11022227	277	\$1,900,000	No
Ward Lake WMA - Tract 3 Stamer	Sibley	11330204	41	\$400,000	No
Indian Lake WMA - Tract 10 Bartz	Sibley	11329227	40	\$400,000	No
Indian Lake WMA - Tract 10	Sibley	11329228	67	\$469,000	No
Lake Moore WMA - Tract 1	Swift	12239214	233	\$900,000	No
Hollerberg WMA - Tract 4a	Swift	12138211	21	\$35,000	No
Henry X WMA - Tract 3	Swift	12239217	40	\$160,000	No
Moonan Marsh WMA - Tract 15	Waseca	10722201	40	\$50,000	No
Moonan Marsh WMA - Tract 5	Waseca	10822225	75	\$350	No
Moonan Marshes - Tract 15	Waseca	10722202	40	\$100,000	No
Moonan Marshes - Tract 5	Waseca	10822225	75	\$500,000	No
St. Leo WMA - Tract 10	Yellow Medicine	11543207	78	\$500,000	No
Posen WMA - Tracts 7/7a	Yellow Medicine	11339224	66	\$600,000	No

Protect Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
Thielke Lake WMA - Tract 4	Big Stone	12246203	134	\$725,000	No	1	\$0
Thielke Lake WMA - Tracts 9-12	Big Stone	12346234	346	\$1,800,000	No	1	\$0
Minneota WMA - Tract 8	Jackson	10136232	136	\$950,000	No	4	\$40,000
Cabinrock WMA - Tract 7	Kandiyohi	12136205	81	\$400,000	No	3	\$30,000
Dora WMA - Tracts 1-3 Schanus Farm	Otter Tail	13641223	320	\$950,000	No	9	\$60,000

